



de maximis, inc.

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May15, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Ms. Diane Salkie
ATTN: Lower Passaic River Remedial Project Manager
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
U.S. EPA, Region 2
290 Broadway, 19th Floor
New York, New York 10007

**Re: Monthly Progress Report No. 144 – April 2019
Lower Passaic River Study Area (LPRSA) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
(RI/FS)
CERCLA Docket No. 02-2007-2009**

Dear Ms. Salkie:

de maximis, inc. is submitting this Monthly Progress Report for the above-captioned project on the behalf of the RI/FS Agreement Settling Parties (Cooperative Parties Group or CPG) pursuant to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). The Progress Report satisfies the reporting requirements of Paragraph 42 of said Settlement Agreement. The CPG has revised this Progress Report to address the Region's direction in its September 1, 2015 letter about Section (d).

(a) Actions which have been taken to comply with this Settlement Agreement during the previous month.

Meetings/Conference Calls

- On April 4, EPA Region 2 (Region 2), CPG, and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) held a meeting to discuss the Upper 9-Mile Interim Remedy (IR) Feasibility Study (FS) (Meeting #15).
- On April 11, Region 2, CPG, and NJDEP held a teleconference to discuss Current Conditions Sampling (Meeting #3).
- On April 15, Region 2, CPG, and NJDEP held a teleconference to discuss the status of the Bioaccumulation Model calibration.
- On April 17, Region 2, CPG, and NJDEP held a meeting to discuss Current Conditions Sampling for Surface Water (Meeting #4).
- On April 18, Region 2, CPG, and NJDEP held a teleconference to discuss Current Conditions Sampling for Biota (Meeting #5).
- On April 30, Region 2 and CPG held a meeting to discuss Lower Passaic River Study Area (LPRSA) Process Document (dated March 29) and the IR FS.

Ms. D. Salkie
LPRSA RI/FS - Progress Report No. 144 – April 2019
May 15, 2019
Page 2 of 5

Correspondence

- On April 1, Region 2 provided an acceptance letter for the revised Appendix K of the revised Draft 17-Mile Remedial Investigation (RI) Report to CPG.
- On April 1, CPG provided schedule information for finalizing Appendix M of the revised Draft 17-Mile RI Report to Region 2.
- On April 1, CPG notified Region 2 that the revised Draft 17-Mile RI Report Appendices B, C, D and E would be submitted to Region 2 via DVD due to their size.
- On April 2, Region 2 provided Region 2 and NJDEP comments on the draft Technology Screening Table for the Upper 9-Mile Interim Remedy (IR) Feasibility Study (FS) to CPG.
- On April 5, CPG consultants provided maps of the remedial footprint, Contaminant Fate and Transport (CFT) model code, and dredge sequence for the Upper 9-Mile IR FS to Region 2 consultants.
- On April 8, Region 2 consultants requested the Graphic Information System (GIS) files from CPG consultants for the Upper 9-Mile IR FS.
- On April 9, CPG consultants indicated to Region 2 consultants that the metadata to the GIS files for the Upper 9-Mile IR FS were being edited and would be transmitted as soon as possible.
- On April 9, CPG provided updated conceptual timelines that compare the Upper 9-Mile Interim/Adaptive Management, Upper 9-Mile Final Remedy and Lower 8-Mile Remedial Action to Region 2.
- On April 9, CPG provided revised text for the Executive Summary (ES), Section 11, and responses to comments (RTCs) for the revised Draft 17-Mile RI Report to Region 2.
- On April 9 and 10, CPG and Region 2 exchanged emails regarding March 21 Upper 9-Mile IR FS meeting minutes.
- On April 12, CPG consultants provided the dredge imports for the Sediment Transport and Organic Carbon models for the projection simulations to Region 2 consultants.
- On April 15, CPG notified Region 2 that Appendix M of the revised Draft 17-Mile RI Report had been uploaded to the EPA SharePoint site on April 12, 2019.
- On April 16, Region 2 provided a tentative agenda for the scheduled May 9 Upper 9-Mile IR FS meeting to CPG.
- On April 16, CPG provided a proposed agenda for the scheduled April 17 Upper 9-Mile Current Conditions Sampling Meeting and a list of potential attendees to Region 2.
- On April 17, Region 2 provided NJDEP comments on Upper 9-Mile Current Conditions Surface Water Sampling program and parameters to CPG.
- On April 17, CPG provided a DVD of the revised Draft 17-Mile RI Report Appendices B, C, D and E to Region 2.
- On April 18, Region 2 provided a draft of slides to CPG from the April 18 Upper 9-Mile Current Conditions Sampling – Biota teleconference.
- On April 19, CPG requested Region 2 provide statistical information presented during the April 18 Upper 9-Mile Current Conditions Sampling – Biota teleconference.
- On April 19, CPG uploaded a compressed version of Attachment 1 of the revised Draft 17-Mile RI Report Appendix O to the EPA SharePoint Site.

Ms. D. Salkie
LPRSA RI/FS - Progress Report No. 144 – April 2019
May 15, 2019
Page 3 of 5

- On April 22, CPG notified Region 2 of a required update to the CFT Model dredge input files.
- On April 23, CPG provided follow-up materials to Region 2 from the April 15 Bioaccumulation Model teleconference.
- On April 23, Region 2 consultants requested to schedule a Newark Bay modeling documentation meeting with CPG consultants.
- On April 29, CPG provided a proposed agenda to Region 2 for the scheduled April 30 meeting.
- On April 29, CPG and Region 2 consultants discussed potential dates for a Newark Bay modeling documentation meeting.
- On April 30, Region 2 provided approval to CPG for the revised Draft 17-Mile 2012 Sediment Chemistry Background Data for the LPRSA, dated October 30, 2013.
- On April 30, Region 2 provided conditional approval to CPG for the revised Draft 17-Mile 2012 Fish Tissue Survey and Chemistry Background Data for the LPRSA, dated July 22, 2015.
- On April 30, Region 2 provided conditional approval to CPG for the revised Draft 17-Mile 2012 Benthic Invertebrate Community Reference Data Report for the LPRSA, dated August 26, 2013.
- On April 30, Region 2 provided approval to CPG for the revised Draft 17-Mile Winter and Spring 2011 Avian Community Survey Data Report for the LPRSA, dated November 20, 2015.
- On April 30, Region 2 provided conditional approval to CPG for the revised Draft 17-Mile 2011 Caged Bivalve Study Data for the LPRSA, dated November 23, 2015.
- On April 30, Region 2 provided conditional approval to CPG for the revised Draft 17-Mile High Volume Chemical Water Column Monitoring Sampling Program Characterization Summary Report, dated November 2014.
- On April 30, Region 2 provided approval to CPG for the revised Draft 17-Mile Small Volume Chemical Water Column Monitoring Sampling Program Characterization Summary Report, dated November 2014.
- On April 30, Region 2 provided conditional approval to CPG for the Draft 17-Mile Physical Water Column Monitoring Sampling Program Characterization Summary Report, dated March 2014.

Work

- CPG continued work to address Region 2's comments on the revised Draft 17-Mile RI Report and Model Appendices.
- CPG continued to develop/draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS components/supporting documents.
- CPG continued modeling projections for the Upper 9-Mile IR FS.
- CPG continued to develop supporting documents for Current Conditions Sampling
- CPG continued work on revision and calibration of the LPR Bioaccumulation Model.
- CPG initiated processing of the Upper 9-Mile Bathymetry Survey data.

Ms. D. Salkie
LPRSA RI/FS - Progress Report No. 144 – April 2019
May 15, 2019
Page 4 of 5

(b) Results of Sampling and Tests

- None.

(c) Work planned for the next two months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion

- CPG will continue work on the outstanding portions of the revised Draft 17-Mile RI Report and Model Appendices in response to Region 2 comments. Appendix P (Bioaccumulation Modeling) has been partially revised, but additional work on calibration issues is required to complete the revision.
- CPG will respond to Region 2 comments on outstanding RI data summary reports.
- CPG will continue participation in meetings and conference calls with Region 2 and NJDEP and drafting the Upper 9-Mile IR FS Addendum.
- CPG will continue to develop QAPP addenda and supporting documents for Current Conditions Sampling approaches and plans.
- CPG will continue modeling projections for the Upper 9-Mile IR FS.
- CPG will continue revising and calibrating the LPR Bioaccumulation Model pursuant to Region 2 comments.
- CPG will continue processing of the Upper 9-Mile Bathymetry Survey data.
- CPG will continue to support HDR's review of the calibration of the LPR/Newark Bay CFT Model.
- CPG will continue work on Newark Bay Model documentation.

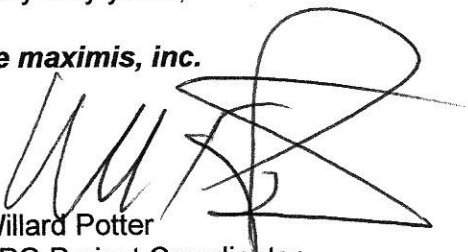
(d) Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays.

- Other Documents – Region 2 and CPG are working on finalizing the outstanding documents.

If you have any questions, please contact Rob Law or me at (908) 735-9315.

Very truly yours,

de maximis, inc.


Willard Potter
CPG Project Coordinator

Ms. D. Salkie
LPRSA RI/FS - Progress Report No. 144 – April 2019
May 15, 2019
Page 5 of 5

cc: Frances Zizila, EPA Region 2 Office of Regional Counsel
William Hyatt, CPG Coordinating Counsel
Lisa Baron, USACE
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